

REMARKS

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth below.

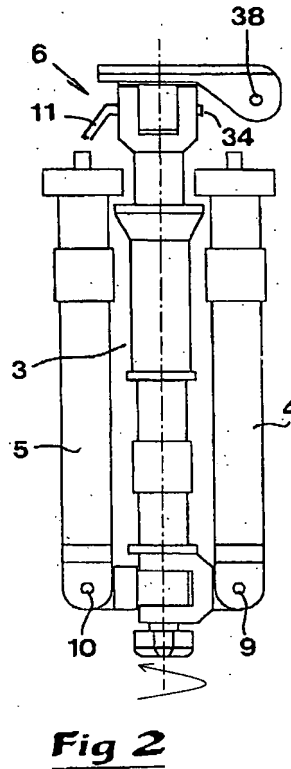
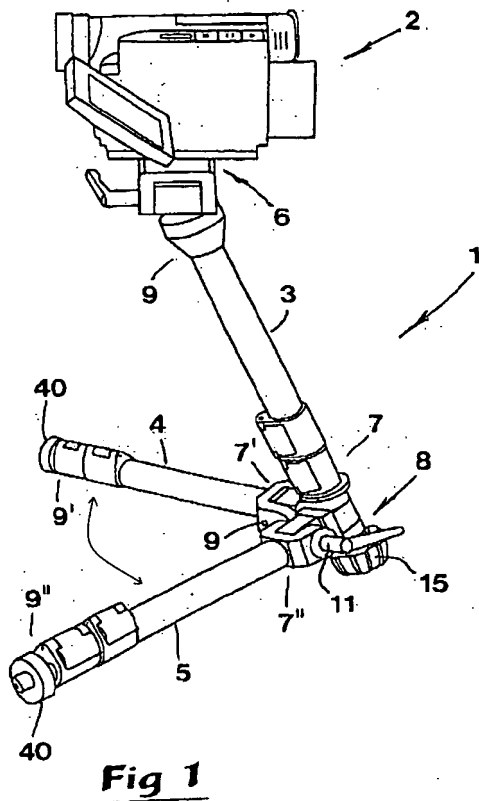
Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 9 were rejected as allegedly being anticipated by EASON et al. 6,283,421. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites that second and third arms are individually pivotal in an axial plane relative to a first arm. Claim 1 also recites that each of the second and third arms is independently and individually pivotal about a central axis in a radial plane relative to the first arm.

Accordingly, as recited the second and third arms are individually pivotal in both an axial plane and a radial plane.

By way of example, only marked-up versions of Figures 1 and 2 of the present application are reproduced below. As seen in Figure 1, the second arm 4 and the third arm 5 are in an open position. By pivoting the second and third arms 4,5 in an axial plane about pivots 9 and 10, the second and third arms are individually moveable to the position as seen in Figure 2, wherein the second and third arms 4,5 are substantially parallel to the first arm 3 in a storage position.



However, not only are the second and third arms 4,5 able to pivot between the positions seen in Figures 1 and 2, but also, the second and third arms 4,5 are pivotal in a radial plane that is perpendicular to the axial plane. As seen in Figure 1, the second and third arms 4,5 can be moved toward and away from each other in a radial plane as denoted by the double-ended arrow. This is further evidenced by Figure 2, which is marked-up to show that the second and third arms 4,5 are able to rotate about a central axis of the first arm 3. Such movement about the

central axis is in a radial plane and the second and third arms 4,5 make such movement individually and independently.

In contrast, the second and third arms 1,1 of EASON are only able to individually pivot in the axial plane. EASON does not disclose or suggest that the second and third arms are also able to individually and independently pivot in a radial plane.

Column 7, lines 13-17 of EASON, noted in the Official Action, disclose movement of the arms in the axial plane from an instrument support position as seen in Figure 1, reproduced below to a storage position as seen in Figure 2, reproduced below.

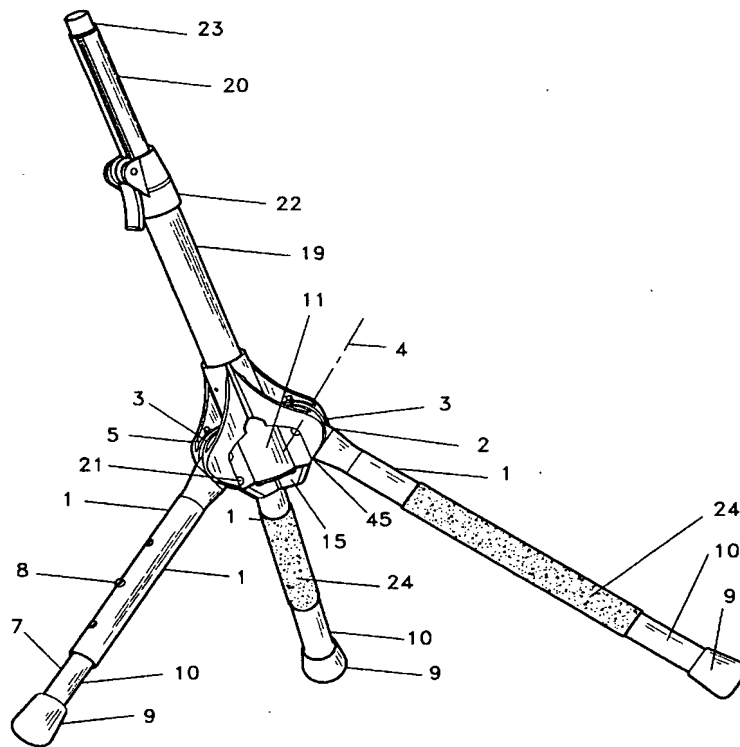


Fig. 1

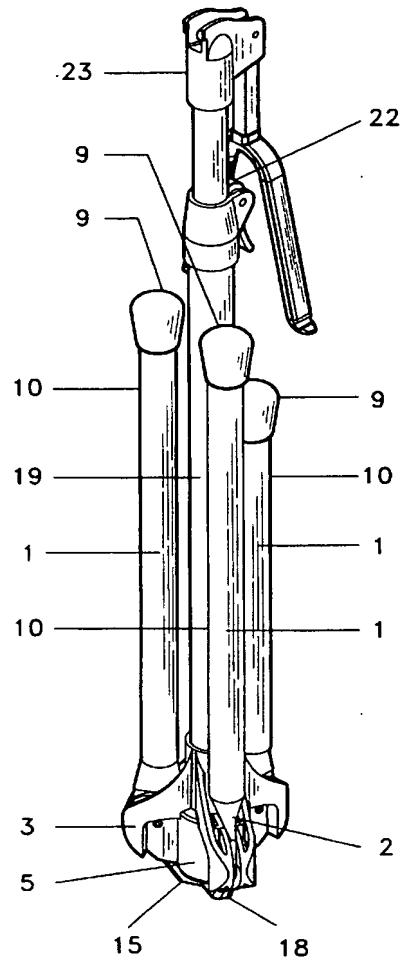


Fig. 2

Based on the configuration of the collapse element 5 as seen in Figure 4 of EASON, reproduced below, it is impossible for the second and third arms to individually and independently pivot in a radial plane and rather, the arms move in unison in the radial plane, that is, rotate in unison about a longitudinal axis through central arm 19.

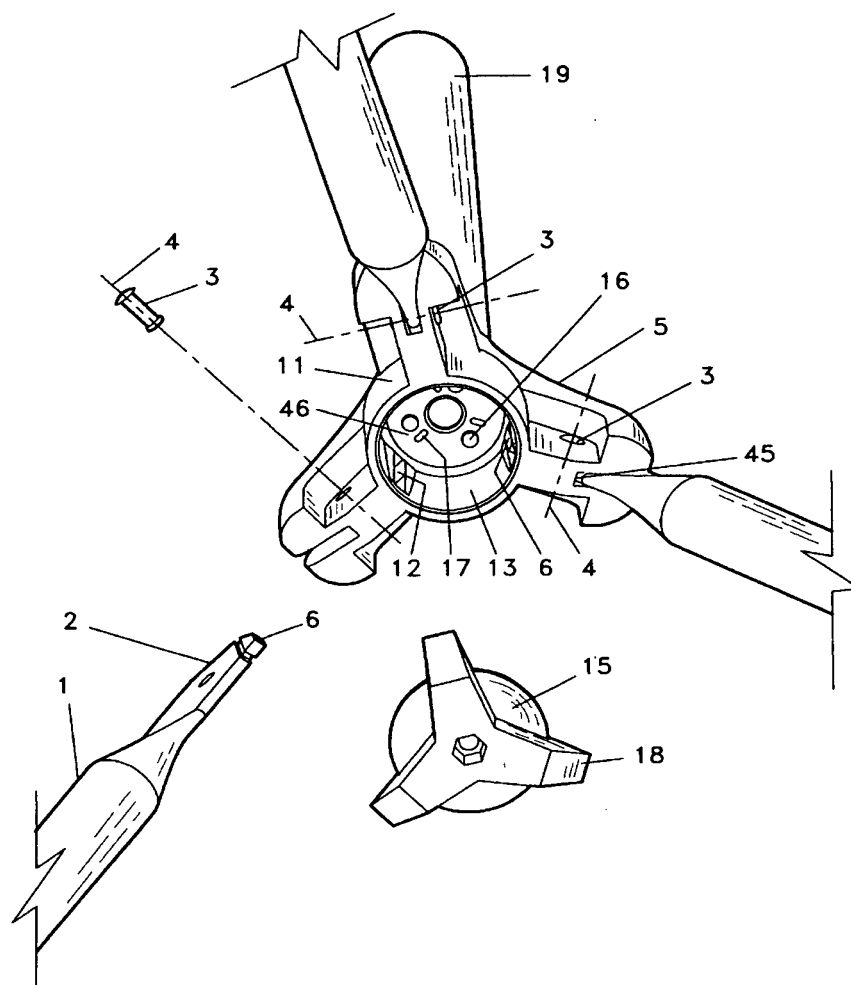


Fig. 4

As the arms 1 of EASON move in unison and are not independently and individually pivotable about the central axis (of the first arm) in a radial plane relative to the first arm as recited in claim 1, EASON does not anticipate the claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 9 recites that the second and third arms are independently and individually pivotable about a central axis in a radial plane relative to the first arm. The analysis above regarding claim 1 is equally applicable to claim 9.

Claims 1 and 3-8 were rejected as unpatentable over RUTHER 6,027,085 in view of EASON et al. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

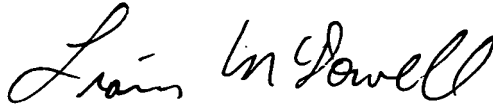
RUTHER is only cited for the disclosure of a joint plate that allows a camera connected to the joint plate to pivot with respect to a tripod assembly. RUTHER does not disclose that each of second and third arms are independently and individually pivotable about a central axis in a radial plane relative to a first arm as recited in claim 1. As set forth above, EASON does not disclose what is recited in claim 1. Since claims 3-8 depend from claim 1 and further define the invention, the proposed combination of references would not have rendered obvious claims 1 and 3-8.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



---

Liam McDowell, Reg. No. 44,231  
745 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

LM/lrs